

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 621

Introduced by Assembly Member Nakanishi

February 19, 2003

An act to add and repeal Article 2.7 (commencing with Section 11595) to Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Insurance Code, relating to health services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 621, as amended, Nakanishi. Physicians and surgeons: immunity from liability.

The Medical Practice Act provides for the licensing and regulation of physicians and surgeons by the Medical Board of California. Existing law requires the board to waive the license renewal fee for a physician and surgeon if the sole purpose of license renewal is to provide voluntary, unpaid services to a public agency, not-for-profit agency, institution, or corporation that provides medical services to indigent patients in medically underserved or critical-need population areas of the state.

This bill would create the Physicians and Surgeons Liability Insurance Pilot Program which would be administered by the State Department of Health Services. The bill would require the program to

purchase liability insurance for up to 100 physicians and surgeons who ~~are licensed solely to provide voluntary, unpaid medical services to specified public or not-for-profit agencies~~ *are eligible for waivers of license renewal fees, as described above.* The bill would terminate the program on January 1, 2009, and would be contingent upon receiving private funding *sufficient to pay the costs of administering the program and purchasing liability insurance.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 2.7 (commencing with Section 11595)
2 is added to Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Insurance Code, to read:

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4 Article 2.7. The Physicians and Surgeons Liability Insurance
5 Pilot Program

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7 11595. The Physicians and Surgeons Liability Insurance Pilot
8 Program is hereby created.

9 11595.1. The program shall purchase liability insurance for
10 up to 100 physicians and surgeons ~~whose sole purpose of being~~
11 ~~licensed is to provide voluntary, unpaid service to a public agency,~~
12 ~~not-for-profit agency, institution, or corporation which provides~~
13 ~~medical services to indigent patients in medically underserved or~~
14 ~~critical-need population areas of the state. who are eligible for~~
15 ~~waivers of license renewal fees pursuant to Section 2442 of the~~
16 ~~Business and Professions Code.~~

17 11595.2. The program shall be administered by the State
18 Department of Health Services.

19 11595.3. The program is contingent upon the receipt of
20 private funding *sufficient to pay for both the administrative cost*
21 *of the program and the cost of liability insurance.*

22 11595.4. The program shall remain in effect only until
23 January 1, 2009, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later
24 enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2009, deletes or
25 extends that date.

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